<u>ABSTRACT</u>

A method for processing dual tone multi-frequency signals for use with a natural language understanding system can include several steps. The step of determining whether an audio input signal is a dual tone multi-frequency signal or a human speech signal can be included. If the audio input signal is determined to be a dual tone multi-frequency signal, the audio input signal can be converted to at least one text equivalent. Also, the step of providing the at least one text equivalent to a natural language understanding system can be included. The natural language understanding system can determine a meaning from the text equivalent.